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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

Keogh Bribery Case Heard Secretly

By Drew Pearson

Ever since members of Sen. Dodd's staff copied his files, there has been national comment as to whether they were right in so doing.

U. S. Judge Alexander Holtzoff stated they were under obligation to report wrongdoing by the Senator to the Justice Department but not to Jack Anderson and me.

In New York this week, a secret hearing is taking place under the auspices of former New York State Court of Appeals Judge Bruce Bromley, now retired, which illustrates the difficulties faced by the press and even the Justice Department in prosecuting high officials, especially when the official is connected with a Senator or a potent Congressman.

The secret hearing pertains to former Judge Vincent Keogh of the New York Supreme Court, who was convicted of taking a \$30,000 bribe in a jukebox case involving Antonio (Tony Ducks) Corallo.

Though Judge Keogh was tried before one of the most respected of Federal judges, District Judge Edward Weinfeld, and found guilty by a

jury in a verdict which was not reversed in the upper courts, nevertheless Keogh has now asked for a hearing on disbarment, and in this hearing the bribery case is virtually being tried all over again.

Judge Keogh is alleging that William Hundley, the respected Justice Department attorney who tried his case, withheld facts and acted unfairly. Hundley was an Eisenhower appointee, has remained on under the Democrats, is completely nonpartisan, leaned over backward to prosecute the case fairly.

Significantly, the rehearing of the Judge Keogh case is held behind closed doors. The public and press are not permitted to be present.

Vincent Keogh is the brother of dapper Gene Keogh, the able Congressman from Brooklyn, who is one of the most powerful Democrats in New York.

Note — The bribery case against Judge Keogh was brought only after there was a certain amount of publicity in the press which focused attention on one of the worst scandals in judicial history since the conviction of Judge Martin Manton.

Dodd's Documents

Michael V. O'Hare, former member of Sen. Dodd's staff, has made an interesting and forthright statement to Time

magazine as to why he helped remove documents from Dodd's office. It had been reported that O'Hare was motivated by revenge because his friend, Terry Golden, had been fired by Dodd.

"In my testimony before the Committee on Standards and Ethics," O'Hare explained, "I volunteered that I took the bulk of the documents with which I was particularly concerned on the weekend that Miss Golden was dismissed. Your article infers a possible motive of bitterness or revenge over her dismissal. Nothing could be further from the truth. Under ordinary circumstances we would have welcomed Miss Golden's departure from the office at this time. It was the equivalent of being exiled from Rome the day before it burned."

O'Hare then summarized the reason why he took this unusual step.

"We believed we were witness to grave misconduct in office," said O'Hare. "I played an extremely delicate role on the Senator's staff for over six months, because I believed that this disclosure of Sen. Dodd's activities was in the public interest."

Inside White House

President Johnson was holding a staff conference regarding the political problems of Vietnam. He complained that

he had tried suggestions put forward by almost everyone.

He had talked to Ambassador Lodge, he said, about the problems of Vietnam, but Lodge's ideas hadn't achieved results. He said he had talked to Sen. Fulbright of Arkansas, the critic of his Vietnam policy, but Fulbright's ideas hadn't worked.

"I put Lansdale over there," continued the President, "but nothing happened."

His voice sounded especially critical. At this point the President leaned back in his chair as he frequently does. Just behind him, and near enough so he could have bopped him on the head, sat General Lansdale.

Lansdale said nothing. He is the man who performed wonders in the Philippines in the way of village reform and was sent to Vietnam to stabilize and build up its villages. There, however, he has not been successful.

One reason is that he can't get the same cooperation of top officials in South Vietnam that he got in the Philippines. In the latter country Lansdale worked directly with President Magsaysay to cut red tape, got things moving. In South Vietnam, Lansdale has to work through Ambassador Lodge, who doesn't like anyone going over his head to talk to top Vietnamese officials.

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